

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

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A/ 1. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting kerning for ~~modified a~~ pair of characters to be modified, the pair of characters being members of a set of characters, where a kerning value for each unmodified character pair in the set is known, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. estimating, independent of any characters in the set other than the pair of characters to be modified, an amplitude of the character modification in the kerning direction for each character of the pair,
- b. applying a function to each amplitude, and
- c. increasing the kerning value for ~~each~~ the character pair by substantially the sum of ~~said~~ the applied functions.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the modification to each character comprises perturbing the outline of the character.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the perturbation is selected from the group consisting of sinusoidal, square wave, and triangular wave perturbations.

AI 28. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for adjusting the kerning values

value for a pair of characters to be modified, the pair being members of a set of characters,  
wherein character pairs based on a known kerning value for each unmodified character pair  
in the set is known, said apparatus comprising:

first memory means to store said known kerning value for each unmodified  
character pair in the set;[[,]]

estimation means for estimating, independent of any characters in the set  
other than the pair of characters to be modified, an amplitude of the character modification  
in the kerning direction for each character of the pair;

function applying means for applying a function to each said amplitude;

value adjusting means to add to ~~each~~ said known kerning value for the pair  
of characters to be modified substantially the sum of the applied functions; ~~which are~~  
~~applied to the estimated amplitudes of the character modification for each character of the~~  
~~pair in the kerning direction;~~ and

second memory means to store the sum of said addition as an increased  
kerning value for ~~each~~ the modified character pair.

29. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein  
said first memory means is a ROM.

30. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein  
said second memory means is a RAM.

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31. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said value adjusting means is an adder.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for adjusting the kerning ~~values~~ for a pair of characters to be modified, the pair being members of a set of characters, wherein character pairs based on a known kerning value for each unmodified character pair in the set is known, said product comprising:

first memory means to store said known kerning value for each unmodified character pair in the set;[[,]]

estimation means for estimating, independent of any characters in the set other than the pair of characters to be modified, an amplitude of the character modification in the kerning direction for each character of the pair;

function applying means for applying a function to each said amplitude;

value adjusting means to add to ~~each~~ said known kerning value for the pair of characters to be modified substantially the sum of the applied functions; ~~which are applied to the estimated amplitudes of the character modification for each character of the pair in the kerning direction;~~ and

second memory means to store the sum of said addition as an increased kerning value for ~~each~~ the modified character pair.

33. (Currently Amended) The product as claimed in claim 32, wherein said value adjusting means operates in accordance with the equation:

$$k = k_1 - f(a) + f(b)$$

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where  $k$  is the adjusted kerning distance,  $k_1$  is the known kerning distance,  $a$  is the amplitude of the ~~perturbation~~ modification applied to ~~the~~ a first of the characters of said pair of characters,  $b$  is the amplitude of the ~~perturbation~~ modification applied to the second of the characters of said pair of characters, and  $f$  represents the ~~perturbing~~ function applied to the estimated amplitudes of the character modification.

34. (Currently Amended) The product as claimed in claim 33, where the ~~perturbing~~ function has a maximum amplitude of  $f(\max) = a$  and said value adjusting means operates in accordance with the equation:

$$k = k_1 + 2a_2$$

35. (Canceled)

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